

KICK OFF at 7.30 p.m.

Programme 10p

HARTLEPOOL UNITED



V

BOLTON WANDERERS

FRIENDLY

Monday, August 10th 1981

7.30 p.m.

COMMENT

AS A PRELUDE to the new season, we welcome new opposition tonight in Bolton Wanderers for what is the club's only public trial match this year.

Manager Billy Horner and his training staff have been going hammer and tongs towards attaining peak fitness and sharpening up match skills as the campaign proper draws near, and this evening they will be looking to tie up any loose ends before we meet Rotherham United in the first round of the Football League Group Cup here on Saturday.

It was hoped that George Best would be making a much heralded and welcome return to the English football scene here at the Victoria Ground, but unfortunately Bolton failed in their bid to sign him, even though their success at one stage seemed imminent.

Bolton is now officially part of the Metropolitan District of Greater Manchester, but many locals still refuse to consider themselves as in anything but Lancashire, despite the boundary changes ten years ago.

And it was as thoroughbred Lancastrians that Wanderers built up most of their proud history. Original members of the Football League in 1888, they were the first Wembley winners of the F. A. Cup, and they repeated the feat in 1926 and 1929. Their last Cup win was in 1958.

Unfortunately, they have always yo-yoed between the First and Second Divisions, and even touched on the Third in the early 70's. They did manage to climb back to the top flight, but they were relegated in 1980.

Last season was a fairly quiet affair, with a final position of 18th in Division Two the result of their labours after the threat of relegation again was only cleared towards the end of the season.

They did, however, give mighty Nottingham Forest a shock in the third round of the F. A. Cup, leading Brian Clough's men until the dying minutes in the Midlands before Forest salvaged a last-gasp 3 - 3 draw, and then going down narrowly — but stubbornly — in the replay.

Tonight though Hartlepool and Bolton stand on the threshold of a new season, both with stars in their eyes over hopes for future success.

Last season's results count for nothing, and to be honest perhaps tonight's result is not the all-important factor. What is is that we can see the platform being built for those craved-for hopes to bear fruit

— JAMES BOND

PEN PICTURES

PLAYERS TRAVELLING TO HARTLEPOOL

DENNIS PEACOCK (Goalkeeper). Joined the Wanderers from Doncaster in March last season. Born in Lincoln, he had a spell with Nottingham Forest. At 6ft. 3 ins. is one of the tallest keepers in the League.

GERRY McELHINNEY (Defender). Signed from Distillery at the beginning of this season, a former Gaelic footballer and amateur boxer who has made his debut for the Wanderers on the 6th September against Bristol Rovers. An aggressive enthusiastic defender.

PETER NICHOLSON (Defender). Signed for the Wanderers from Blackpool for a small fee prior to the 1971-72 season and has proved to be a fantastic bargain. A utility player who always gives a hundred percent in either defence or mid-field.

PAUL JONES (Defender). Paul is a tall, quick-tackling defender who has been a member of the Under - 23 and full England squads. He is a commanding player in the air as well as on the ground and has a habit of scoring vital goals. Can also play full back with distinction.

MIKE WALSH (Defender). Manchester-born Mike joined the Wanderers from school. He has captained the side and is equally proficient in the middle of the defence, at full-back or in mid-field.

PETER REID (Midfield). Joined Bolton from school on Merseyside. Was a regular member of the England Under 21 side which he also skippered. A very talented player who had the misfortune to sustain a severe knee injury which put him out of action for the second half of season 78-79 and the first half of last season, but recovered to win back a regular place.

LEN CANTELLO (Midfield). Len cost the Wanderers a record £350,000 fee when he signed from West Bromwich Albion in June 1979. He is the sort of midfield player who delights in stamping his authority on a game. Always looking for a chance to attack he is an exciting player with an eye for seeing an unexpected opening.

DUSAN NIKOLIC (Midfield). Signed from Red Star Belgrade in September this season to strengthen the midfield. Yugoslavian born has represented his country at Senior International level on four occasions and also has eleven Under 23 Caps and 24 Youth International Caps. Has played for Red Star in European Competitions every season since 1970.

NEIL WHATMORE (Striker). Strong attacker with a flair for scoring goals. Is a prolific scorer and can also play mid-field with good effect. Was top scorer last season with 18 goals.

ALAN GOWLING (Striker). Signed for a £120,000 fee from Newcastle United three seasons ago after four years at St. James' Park. Started his career with Manchester United and then moved to Huddersfield.

JOHN THOMAS — A speedy striker, John was given his chance in League football when he joined Everton. Signed for the Wanderers on a free transfer in June 1980 on the recommendation of his former team-mate Brian Kidd.

CHRIS THOMPSON (Striker). A speedy attacker with plenty of skill, Chris joined the Wanderers from school. He became an apprentice and then went on to sign full professional forms in July, 1977. Has represented England at youth level.

MIKE CARTER (Forward). A highly talented striker with an ability to score spectacular goals. Mike had a spell on loan with Mansfield in 78-79 season making 18 League appearances and scoring four goals. He made his league debut for Wanderers against Bristol City in December 1979 and scored his first League goal later that month in the dying seconds to snatch a home point against Everton at Burnden Park after coming on as substitute.

MICK BENNETT (Defender). A member of the successful England Youth squad which won this summer's European Youth Championships in East Germany, Mick is one of the most promising youngsters in the game. Made his league debut against Everton at Goodison Park in April and has played at full-back and in midfield. Bolton born, he joined the Wanderers as a schoolboy, becoming an apprentice in June last year and signing full professional forms six months later.

DAVID HOGGAN (Midfield). Joined Bolton from Tynecastle Boys Club, Edinburgh as an apprentice in November 1977 and signed full professional forms in August 1979. Made his League debut at Bristol City on April 12th this year and in his brief appearances showed neat skills and ability to shoot from any range.

TODAYS TEAMS

From BOLTON

McDONAGH
NICHOLSON
BRENNAN
CANTELLO
JONES
DOWLING
NIKOLIC
CARTER
WHATMORE
REID
BENNET
PEACOCK
THOMAS
McELHINNEY
HOGGAN

From HARTLEPOOL

BURLEIGH
BROWN
SWEENEY
BIRD
LINIGHAM
STIMPSON
FAGAN
STAFT
KISK
HOGAN
LINACRE
HARDING
HAMPTON
HOUCHEN
HOWARD
JOHNSON

Referee: G. COURTNEY (Spenymoor)
Linesman W. COOKLAND (Billingham)
D. KISK (Hartlepool)